

contribution or prosecuting it in a court of law or freezing its bank accounts. For this purpose there is a Monitoring Unit set up in the Foreigners' Division in the Ministry of Home Affairs. List of Associations against which penal action has been taken for violation of various provisions of the Act, is available on MHA's website: www.mha.nic.in.

Multipurpose National Identity Cards

†786. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of the scheme of issuing multipurpose national citizenship identity cards;

(b) whether it is a fact that under the pilot project of this scheme, 30 lakhs people have to be issued multipurpose identity cards, but even after lapse of two years from its time schedule, such cards have not been issued to them; and

(c) what action is going to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) to (c) The Pilot Project on Multi-purpose National Identity Card (MNIC) has been under implementation in selected areas in 12 States and one union territory covering a population of 30.95 lakhs. The base line survey has been completed and citizens data base has been made ready. The verification of citizenship of 84% of the person in the pilot areas has been completed. 20 MNIC Centres have been setup with requisite man power, equipments and connectivity. The work of production and distribution of identity card has been awarded to Government Companies. As per time line agreed with them, the distribution of identity card will be completed by May 2007.

Identity cards will be issued to persons of age 18 years and above under the pilot project out of the total population of 30.95 lakhs. Their number is an estimated 19.14 lakhs. This is the first time that such a project has been undertaken in the country. Though the pilot project was initiated in November, 2003, its actual implementation has taken longer due to difficulties encountered at almost each and every stage of its

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

implementation due to non-availability of data entry operators in regional languages, difficulties in capturing of photographs and finger biometrics, non-availability of power, validation of individual data for correct spellings of names and other attributes, cumbersome and tedious process of verification of citizenship, weak document base for determining citizenship of individuals in rural areas, specially for agricultural labourers, landless labourers, married females etc.

The experience gained in the implementation of the pilot project will be helpful for making decisions for the national roll-out for the entire country.

Trafficking of women from Assam

787. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the media reports that trafficking of women from Assam is on the rise;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware of the cases of batches of girls being openly sold in Haryana and Punjab;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps Government have taken to end such practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) The Government of Assam has informed that certain number of girls of Assam are taken outside the State to other States under the pretext of providing jobs and thereafter their whereabouts are not known. The State Police of Assam have recovered 28 girls during the period from 2003 to August, 2006.

(b) and (c) As per reports of the State Governments, no such case has been reported in Haryana and Punjab.

(d) The Union Government is fully alive to and concerned with the problem of trafficking and is taking several measures, in concert with the State Governments for prevention and control of the crime of trafficking as well as measures for rehabilitation of victims. The Union Government has advised all the State Governments to deal with the crime of trafficking in a holistic manner and to evolve an effective and comprehensive strategy